



National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy



January 2012

Preliminary Planning Issues

Planning issues can generally be stated as resource management problems and opportunities that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (Forest Service) need to address to ensure they are fulfilling their agency-specific resource management missions. Issues may be identified by local, state or national needs, or may reflect conditions specific to BLM Field Offices or National Forests. Identified issues are subject to change throughout the planning process as new conditions are identified and the public becomes more fully involved. It is important to note that issues will be specific to each Land Use Plan (LUP) and not all issues are applicable to every LUP amendment. The BLM and Forest Service will use the planning issues to help guide the development of a reasonable range of alternative management strategies for the resource management plan (RMP).

Planning issues identify concerns that:

- Present unresolved questions or new opportunities to change allocation of a specific resource.
- Present major land use conflicts regarding management or maintenance of a base resource.
- Can be resolved by the BLM or Forest Service within the life of the plan.

Preliminary categories for planning issues include:

- Fire/Fuels Management
- Lands and Realty
- Minerals Management
- Rangeland Management
- Off-Highway Vehicle Use
- Recreation
- Vegetation/Invasive Species
- Wildlife, including Special Status Species
- Climate Change
- Social and Economic Conditions
- Riparian Resources
- Visual Resource Management
- Wilderness Characteristics
- Wild Horses
- Soil and Water Resources
- Special Designations (Wild and Scenic Rivers, WSAs, National Scenic and Historic Trails, ACECs, etc.)

Sample Planning Issues:

- What types of vegetation treatments are appropriate for sage-grouse habitat?
- What actions or restrictions are needed to protect greater sage-grouse habitat?
- How will land uses be managed to maintain and improve sage-grouse habitat?